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Lewis, Josh[Lewis.Josh@epa.gov]

From: Maier, Brent

Sent: Wed 3/25/2015 5:28:17 PM

Subject: EPA Press Release: Phoenix Ranks 11th on EPA's Energy Star Top Cities List

Dear Colleagues:

The following press release is being issued today by the EPA Region IX press office. If you have questions or need any additional information, please give me a call.

Regards,

Brent Maier

Congressional Liaison Telephone: 415.947.4256

Contact Information:

Margot Perez-Sullivan

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415-947-4149

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 25, 2015

Phoenix Ranks 11th on EPA's Energy Star Top Cities List

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its seventh-annual list of the top 25 U.S. metropolitan areas with the most Energy Star certified buildings in 2014. This year, Phoenix ranks 11th with 165 buildings. EPA's Energy Star Top Cities list shows how cities across America, with help from Energy Star, are embracing energy efficiency as an effective way to save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that fuel climate change.

"Phoenix has saved over \$31.6 million and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 183,608 tons because of energy efficient buildings and upgrades," said Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator for the EPA's Pacific Southwest office. "Nationwide, these efforts are essential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the negative effects of climate change."

More than 25,000 buildings across America have earned EPA's Energy Star certification since 1999. The buildings have saved nearly \$3.4 billion on utility bills and prevented greenhouse gas emissions equal to the emissions from the annual electricity use of nearly 2.4 million homes.

Energy use in commercial buildings accounts for 17 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions at a cost of more than \$100 billion per year. Energy Star certified buildings are verified to perform better than 75 percent of similar buildings nationwide, and they use an average of 35 percent less energy and are responsible for 35 percent fewer emissions than typical buildings. Many common building types can earn the Energy Star, including office buildings, K-12 schools, hotels, and retail stores.

The program starts with tools to help building owners or managers understand how their buildings are currently performing and what to aim for in terms of improvements. A typical upgrade includes the following: tuning up the building systems; reducing lighting loads; reducing supplemental loads (e.g., equipment, wasteful behaviors, leaky windows, poor insulation, etc.); improving air distribution systems; and making upgrades to heating and cooling equipment. The stages, when followed in order, account for the interactions between different building systems. For example, replacing heat-producing incandescent bulbs with cool CFLs or LEDs will mean that a building's air conditioner won't have to work as hard in the summer months, so a building may be able to downsize its cooling system based on the new lighting's heat output. Another benefit of the five-stage approach is that it ensures the lowest-cost measures are tackled first. As organizations progress through the five stages, they can roll their cost savings into larger and larger investments, culminating in the last, most expensive stage. By the time organizations start making upgrades to heating and cooling equipment, they typically have already amassed substantial cost savings from previous lower-cost improvements.

To create the annual top cities list, EPA tallies the number of Energy Star certified

buildings for that particular year within each metropolitan area, as defined by the U.S. Census. These areas include the city itself as well as surrounding towns and suburbs.

The top 25 cities are:

Rank	Metro Area	2014 Building Count
1	Washington, DC	480
2	Los Angeles	475
3	Atlanta	328
4	New York	299
5	San Francisco	292
6	Chicago	251
7	Dallas-Fort Worth	248
8	Houston	235
9	Denver	195
10	Boston	176
11	Phoenix	165
12	Philadelphia	158
13	Seattle	149
14	Riverside, Calif.	127
15	Minneapolis-St. Paul	122
16	Charlotte	95
17	San Diego	92
18	Miami	90
19	Sacramento	89

20	Virginia Beach	81
21	Detroit	80
22	San Jose	70
23	Austin	65
23	Portland, Ore.	65
24	Louisville	59
24	Tampa	59
25	Salt Lake City	55

Energy Star is the simple choice for energy efficiency. For more than 20 years, people across America have looked to EPA's Energy Star program for guidance on how to save energy, save money, and protect the environment. Behind each blue label is a product, building, or home that is independently certified to use less energy and cause fewer of the emissions that contribute to climate change. Today, Energy Star is the most widely recognized symbol for energy efficiency in the world, helping families and businesses save \$300 billion on utility bills, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by two billion metric tons since 1992. Join the millions who are already making a difference at energystar.gov.

More on the 2015 top cities: www.energystar.gov/topcities

Search for Energy Star certified buildings: www.energystar.gov/buildinglist

More about earning the Energy Star label for commercial buildings: www.energystar.gov/buildingcertification

Brent Maier

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